

SIX MONTHS TIME IS UP

**Fire Court Will
Continue to
Sit.**

**WILL DEPEND ON
NEXT LEGISLATURE**

**Next Week Will Be Given Up to
Foreign Claims—The
Feather Cloak.**

WERE the intentions of the legislature which created it followed out the Court of Fire Commissioners would have been abolished by time limitation yesterday. Fortunately the specific intention of the legislature in this respect was omitted from the act, and the court will no doubt sit until its labors are completed, depending upon the legislature to reimburse them at its next session.

The fire court has far from completed its labors, and will not do so for several months. Hardly more than three-fifths of the number of claims filed, aggregating over 6,000, have been heard and far from that number have been adjudicated.

The act to provide for the "ascertainment and payment of all claims which may be made by persons whose property was destroyed by fire in the years A. D. 1899 and 1900 under orders of the Board of Health" fixes the time of the service of said court by implication only.

There is no specific reference in the law to the term for which the said commissioners should be appointed, but in providing salaries for but six months, it is generally considered that it was the intention to limit the court to such a length of time.

The act was signed by Governor Dole, and became a law on the 20th day of April, 1901, and on the first of May following the Governor issued commissions to the present five members of the court. Consequently if the law had limited the court to six months their time of service must have ended yesterday. By omitting this provision from the statute the commission is still enabled to act, and will undoubtedly now work until every claim has been heard and adjudicated, even though it takes them until January or February of next year. With the matter of expenses to keep the commission running through that time some other method must be adopted.

The appropriation for the commission provided the following sums for expenses:

Commissioners at \$10 per diem while in session	\$9,000
Counsel for Territory at \$250 per month	1,500
Clerk of Commission at \$150 per month	900
Stenographer at \$125 per month	750
Interpreters at \$10 per diem	1,800
Bailiff at \$75 per month	450
Incidentals	1,000
Government witnesses	2,000

The total appropriation for expenses of the commission was \$17,400 as noted in the figures given above. While the commissioners were appointed six months ago, their actual sessions did not begin until the middle of May and the clerk, stenographer, bailiff, etc., did not begin their duties until that day. Consequently the six months would not actually expire until the middle of the present month, and as the court has not been in session every day, there is still considerable of the appropriation unexpended. It is estimated that of the \$9,000 set apart for the pay of the five commissioners there is an unexpended balance sufficient to keep the court running for nearly two months. With the clerk, stenographer and bailiff it is different, as those officials were to receive a fixed salary each month, which will have been absorbed before the end of November. The money for expenses after that time must be secured from some other source. There is some possibility of having an additional amount turned over from some other fund for the use of the court, and it is this cannot be legally done, the court will continue its sessions and trust to the next legislature to reimburse it for expenses and moneys paid out. The fund set aside

PICTORIAL HISTORY OF WEEK.



HE MIGHT NOW BE IN HEAVEN

**Little Manuel Sylva of Punchbowl
Monkeyed With Dynamite
to His Cost.**

About 6 o'clock yesterday evening a telephone message was sent to the police station to the effect that a Portuguese boy had been shot on Punchbowl street near Robert Boyd's residence. In response to the call Deputy Sheriff Chillingworth hurried to the scene of the trouble.

Arriving there he found that a Portuguese boy of about twelve years, named Manuel Sylva, had been badly injured by an explosion of giant powder, which had severely lacerated his hand and cut his face in several places.

The boy refused to state how he came by his injuries, but the father told the deputy that he kept some giant powder in the house for the purpose of cleaning out a cesspool, and said that he thought his son had obtained possession of the explosive in some way or other, and had experimented with it, to his cost.

J. F. Eckhardt of the Queen's Hospital dressed the boy's wounds, and he was carried to his home.

for government witnesses has not been very heavily drawn upon, and may furnish some relief.

In order to facilitate the work of the commission the court has been divided into two sections. Only a majority of the commissioners is needed to hear claims, and while three members are sitting in court, two are busily engaged in adjudicating the claims which have already been heard. By this means considerable time is saved, and the big rush at the close of the session will be avoided. A large number of cases have already been decided but the court's findings will not be made public until every claim is adjudicated. Otherwise there is a likelihood of the court's decisions being used as a basis for representations at the hearing of other claims.

The fire court has been occupied all week with Chinese claims. Next week miscellaneous claims will be heard, including Hawaiian, and the claims of foreigners other than Japanese and Chinese. It is not unlikely that the "hole in the ground" investigation will be heard, this coming week.

There is to be a little further investigation also of the historical Oo feather cloak, which is listed at \$500. The one question which is not yet satisfactorily presented is, as to the real ownership of the famous garment, and the court will hear the testimony of a single witness on that point in executive session some time next week.

John Nott, the pioneer plumber, and wife, celebrated yesterday the forty-sixth anniversary of their wedding. Their numerous children and grandchildren were their guests at a family gathering.

SPRECKELS' POSTAL CONTRACT SEEMS TO BE IN DANGER

**The New Zealand Government on the Brink of
Inaugurating a Line of Mail Steamers
to Vancouver.**

WELLINGTON, Oct. 11.—The Postmaster General gave notice this evening to move the following resolutions next week:

1. "That in view of the temporary agreements with the J. D. Spreckels and Brothers Company (the Oceanic Steamship Company of San Francisco) for the performance of a three-weekly service between San Francisco and Auckland for one year expiring next month, (a) this House authorizes the Government to enter into a contract with the said company for a renewal of the present San Francisco mail service for a term of three years, subject to the following conditions: (b) That the payment for the conveyance of mails from New Zealand to San Francisco shall be at the rate of 7s. 6d. per pound for letters, 1s. per pound for books, packets, etc., and 6d. per pound for newspapers; or (c) that in lieu of the foregoing payments a fixed annual subsidy of £20,000 be paid, provided that one British-owned steamer, registered in New Zealand, be employed in the service; (d) that the time between San Francisco and Auckland shall not exceed seventeen days; (e) that no bonus shall be paid for early arrival, and a penalty of the rate of £4 an hour shall be enforced, only when late delivery exceeds forty-eight hours; (f) that all mails tendered to the contractors at Auckland and San Francisco by, or on behalf of, the Postmaster General of New Zealand shall be conveyed by the contract vessels, and sufficient and secure accommodation provided for the same; (g) that suitable accommodation and lighting shall be provided for the purpose of sorting the mails on board the contract vessels, and first-class accommodation provided without charge for a mail agent and assistant, or if required, two assistants; (h) that during the continuance of the contract, and so long as the same shall be faithfully carried out by the contractors, no charge for harbor dues, dock dues, or other rates shall be made or levied under the Harbors Act, 1878, or any amendment thereof, or under any special Act in that behalf at the Port of Auckland for any of the steam vessels employed in carrying out the contract; (i) that any agreement entered into between the Postmaster General of New Zealand and the J. D. Spreckels and Brothers Company, shall, where applicable, follow the provisions of the agreement entered into between the Postmaster General and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand (Limited), on August 14, 1895, and the renewed agreement made on April 11, 1899; (j) and that the terms and conditions of clause 7 of the agreement of August 14, 1895, providing for the detention of the vessels at San Francisco for the mails from Great Britain shall be given effect to as far as may be consistent with the contract subsisting between the J. D. Spreckels and Brothers Company and the United States Government."

2. "That in the event of it being found impracticable to arrange a contract for the three-weekly San Francisco service on the foregoing terms, this House authorizes the Government to enter into negotiations for establishing a three-weekly or a four-weekly Vancouver mail service, subject to the following conditions: (a) That the contract shall be for a term of not less than three, or more than five years; (b) that the payment shall not exceed £20,000 a year; (c) that the service shall be performed by vessels of not less than 6,000 tons, having first-class passenger accommodations, and fitted with all modern improvements, and also refrigerating chambers and chilled chambers, for fruit and dairy produce; (d) that the time shall not exceed 18 days between Vancouver and a New Zealand port, the selection of which to be at the contractor's option; (e) that the terms and conditions of the contract proposed in respect of the San Francisco service shall be applied to the Vancouver service so far as they can be adopted."

3. "That the Government shall also negotiate for a fortnightly intercolonial service to provide prompt connection with the Federal mail service at Melbourne and Sydney, (a) between Wellington and Sydney, or (b) between Melbourne and the Bluff, and in addition, in the event of the San Francisco service not being arranged, (c) between Sydney and Auckland."

Members are reticent upon the question of the mail services, but they agree in expressing approval of the Government's action in bringing down the resolutions in ample time to allow them to be fully considered. A long and warm debate is expected when the question comes up for decision. The division will be exceedingly close.

VIEWS MR. SPRECKELS' AGENT.

Mr. Dunnet, Mr. Spreckels' agent, says the government is perfectly aware that it is an impossibility under the present American shipping laws for any but American ships to trade between Honolulu and San Francisco, so he cannot see the force of the offer of an annual subsidy of £20,000 in lieu of poundage, provided that one British-owned steamer registered in New Zealand be employed in the service. Mr. Dunnet says it seems to be forgotten that the colony pays nothing at all for the inward service, which is subsidized by the American government, and all the company is asking is a fair amount for the return trip, as it is impossible to run an unsubsidized service across the Pacific. When I questioned him as to what might happen if Mr. Spreckels cannot see his way to accept the rates offered by the New Zealand government, Mr. Dunnet pointed out that the essence of the company's contract with the American government was that the colony pays nothing at all for the service, and the commonwealth. He believed that Mr. Spreckels could get the contract amended so as to make the terminus at Queensland, where the service would be welcomed, and this would result in New Zealand being cut out. Such a route would give Australia a twenty-eight day service. He also pointed out that even at the present time there was nothing

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY FORMED

**It Had a Preparatory Meeting
Last Night at
Punahou.**

A meeting of the Philharmonic Society of Honolulu was held last night at Pauahi Hall, at Punahou. Although two preparatory meetings had been held before this, the meeting last night was the first in which a real start was made.

The first three choruses of Handel's "Messiah" were practiced, and were very well executed indeed, when it is considered that it was practically the first time that they were tried. Even the difficult chorus, "For Unto Us a Child is Born," succeeded very well, although it was sung at sight by most of the members.

After the practicing had finished the election of officers for the society took place. The following are the officers: President, Hon. W. R. Castle; vice president, Mrs. Theodore Richards; secretary, Miss Ethel Cameron; treasurer, Mr. W. J. Forbes; librarian, Mr. O. G. Beardslee; auditor, Mrs. L. H. Miller; and musical director, Prof. F. A. Ballaseyus.

The following is a list of the members of the society:

Mrs. J. F. Brown, Mrs. F. S. Dodge, Miss Belle Johnson, Miss Blanche Frost, Miss Florence Osborne, Mrs. T. Richards, Miss E. Cameron, Miss Lavinia Cook, Miss Amy Roe, Miss Helen Sorenson, Miss Dagmar Sorenson, Mrs. G. E. Rugg, Miss Gertrude Whiteman, Mrs. J. A. Hall, Mrs. G. W. R. King, Mrs. Leaningham, Miss Sophy Trill, Miss Hanna Brierly, Mrs. Lill, Mrs. Brown, Miss Myrick, Mrs. Ysabel Davis, Miss Claire Uecker, Mrs. L. H. Miller, Messrs. Alfred A. Benson, W. M. Campbell, E. L. Collins, O. G. Beardslee, C. du Roi, V. Constable, L. H. Miller, Rud Miller, W. L. Scher, Dr. G. W. Burgess, F. Weichers, G. E. McClellan, W. Beckwith, C. Hitt, J. H. d'Almeida, H. W. Plueger.

Hereafter the rehearsals of the society will be held on Thursdays at 8 p. m., at Pauahi Hall, Punahou.

TO PREVENT THE BOATS LEAVING FROM QUEENSLAND DIRECT ON THE HOMEWARD RUN.

THE mail service proposals of the postmaster general, published on Saturday morning, created a great deal of talk in business circles, and considerable alarm was expressed at the position in which the proposals place the San Francisco service. Among Auckland merchants, and, indeed, among all classes of the community there is but one opinion regarding the utility of the San Francisco mail, and a unanimous feeling that a great injury will be done Auckland by its stoppage. Our reporter spoke to several business men on the subject on Saturday. He found the majority hopeful that the Auckland members might be able to do something to change the ministerial proposals, but all were strongly of the opinion that should this fail, and the service be ultimately threatened, the movement should be most stubbornly resisted by the citizens of Auckland.

CABLE FROM MR. SPRECKELS.

WELLINGTON, Oct. 14.—I understand that Mr. Dunnet, the agent of Mr. Spreckels in New Zealand, who is at present in Wellington, has received a cable message stating that Mr. Spreckels declined the proposals made in the resolutions now put before Parliament by ministers. It was fully expected that this would be the result by all parties.

BOTH SIDES IN A RUSH

**Rapid Transit Men
Hold to Their
Right.**

**MISTAKE OVER
PLANS THE CAUSE**

**Roads Bureau Employees Stand for
One Round But Explanations
Prevent Any Battle.**

WITH a rush the men working in the new roadbed of the Rapid Transit company on lower King street answered the call of their foreman yesterday morning and came out of the ditch, and with a similar rush teamsters and shovelers with a dozen wagons of the Works department took to their vehicles and drove away. But the railroad men had no other intention than to place a pile of rails so that the wagons could not be brought close to the piles of earth excavated in preparing for the line, and as these were the objections of the drays they went off empty and peace rested where there might have been war. It was only one round, and that was soon over.

The difficulty which threatened to raise a riot arose over the disposition of the earth which is being taken out of the ditch made for the laying of the new tracks. The roads department had the idea that the contractor's plan was to take away all this earth and replace it with rock. So it was that the order was given that this debris be taken off the street and carted to the low ground further along King street. However it is the intention of the contractor to use the macadam and much of the earth in filling in between the ties of the track as laid and consequently the removal of any of it would mean a delay in the completion of the work.

When the teams of W. C. Acl, which are employed by the road department, appeared yesterday morning they were placed alongside the excavation and the men began to load the wagons from the piles of earth. There was objection made but as Contractor McKee was at a different point on the work, the Public Works Department people would not heed the protest of the luna. Finally the contractor appeared and when remonstrance failed he gave the orders to place obstructions in the way, and then the teams were driven off, as the instructions to take the earth did not include fighting for it.

As soon as the trouble appeared the men at interest got together and soon adjusted matters, and now there will be no effort on the part of the Roads men to take away any of the filling until the completion of the work of the contractor laying the line. The plan of the Roads Bureau was to utilize the material which was thus excavated for the purpose of easily filling in the stretch of King street which crosses the rice fields at such a low grade. The regular grade of the street across this low stretch is from six inches to a foot and a half above the present grade. During the winter rains much of this district is under mud and the Roads Bureau is now engaged in the filling in of this street so that there will be no difference between the grade given to the Rapid Transit company and that of the roadway.

This improvement of the makai side of the road puts the Tramways in a pocket along this stretch of the street. The line of the Rapid Transit company is to be laid parallel with the old road and makai. The roadway is to be elevated and the Tramways line will either have to be raised also or it will be absolutely out of it at a lower grade, where the water will fill the tracks, as it pours off the higher levels.

The return of Kappelmeister Berger from his vacation trip to the Coast was signaled last night by a well attended concert at the Hawaiian Hotel. Captain Berger wielded the baton with renewed vigor, and several new pieces which he brought from San Francisco, were played. The music from "Florolara" was especially pleasing to the audience. The grounds were thronged with listeners, and the hotel lanais comfortably filled with guests and onlookers. Manager Lake, of the hotel, invited the members of the band to the hostelry after the concert, and treated them to an excellent lunch.